



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

Richard Vespucci
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126

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1,000 Educators Prepare to Attend Generation Next Conference on August 16-17

Approximately 1,000 educators from across New Jersey will convene later this month at an annual conference to address the evolving vocational-technical and adult education needs of students in the 21st century. The conference, *Generation Next: Showcasing Best Practices and Innovation in Vocational-Technical, Career and Adult Education*, is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education and will be held on August 16-17 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

"Governor McGreevey and I are committed to ensuring that all of our high school graduates are prepared for life after school, regardless of whether their plans include college," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "With the Governor's leadership and support, we have created new and innovative opportunities for success for many high school students. For example, we have introduced the academy concept in several high schools, in which the schools offer a specialty area of instruction with the avid support and participation by corporate and college-level partners.

"Generation Next is all about exploring innovative and effective ways to prepare our students for the workplace and for further education anywhere in the world. Our educators play an important and relevant role in their development," Commissioner Librera said.

This year's conference will feature a choice of more than 50 workshops by presenters from across the country on various aspects of career preparation and workforce training for students and adult learners. Topics include discussions on technological literacy, employment trends, career academies, individual learning styles, job readiness planning, and partnerships between schools and businesses. This year's conference will also feature a special track of workshops intended for charter school audiences.

This year's keynote speaker will be Cam Marston, author and consultant in the area of improving multigenerational relations. He will speak on the topic, *Four Generations of Learners*.

For more information about Generation Next, contact Allwyn L. Baskin, New Jersey Department of Education, 609-292-7336 or visit the following Web site:

www.nj.gov/njded/gennext

The first Generation Next Conference was convened in 2001 in response to the need for vocational educators to ensure that their programs are kept up-to-date for students and their potential employers. Participation in the conference has grown over the years; this year's conference is expected to draw 10 times the number of the original participants.